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WORTHING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Worthing.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

23rd June 1944.

Gentlemen,

ANNUAL REPORT 1943.

Acting on instructions from the Ministry of Health that Reports should again be confined to essential and urgent matters which affected the public health during the year, especially any matters arising from or connected with the War, outbreaks of Infectious Disease, together with any exceptional administrative measures taken or recommended by the Medical Officer of Health, I beg to make the following observations.

Statistics 1943.

		Worthing R.D.	England & Wales.
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	18.7	16.5
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	14.3	12.1
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	...	31	49

Evacuation.

At the end of the year there were approximately 119 adult evacuees, 60 accompanied evacuee children and 98 unaccompanied evacuee children in the District.

Infectious Disease.

During the year the following cases of Infectious Disease were notified :-

	No.notified.	No.of deaths.
Scarlet Fever	54 (83 in 1942)	0
Pneumonia	8 (18 " ")	9
Tuberculosis	32 (24 " ")	18
Measles	193	0
Whooping Cough	50	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0
Erysipelas	5	0

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria immunisation has again been carried out during the year by the County Council. At the end of the year the position was as follows :-

98.1% of children of school age had been immunised.
50.3% of children under school age had been immunised.

Scabies.

During the year 252 cases of Scabies were brought to the notice of the Health Department, namely :-

84 adults
97 school children
71 children under school age

Treatment was carried out as follows :-

Tetmosol	...	195 cases.
Tetmos Cream	...	36 "
Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion	...	18 "
Sulphur Ointment	...	2 "
Treated privately	...	1 "

The following is a report on the work of Mr. Heathcote in connection with Scabies :-

"The work in connection with the administration of the Scabies Order 1941 and Circular 2157 of the Ministry of Health has continued satisfactorily throughout the past year. Publicity has been maintained and it is pleasing to be able to report that the public appear to be recognising the disease at a much earlier stage than in previous years and are not slow to ask for advice and assistance, either from their Doctor or through the Child Welfare Clinics in the District.

The treatment of these cases notified has not been so varied during 1943 as during 1942, owing to the fact that the treatment brought into use in December 1942, that of the use of Tetmosol (Tetraethylthiuram Monosulphide) has proved undoubtedly to be the best preparation used to date.

Tetmosol has been used in two ways, firstly as a fluid and secondly as an emulsified cream known as Tetmos Cream. Various methods of application have been tried and at various strengths. Results in all cases have been excellent, a cure resulting within six days in the longest instance, and in the majority of cases a cure has been effected in three days.

'Stinging' has been a subject of consideration, and it is quite clear that the cream is much more pleasant to use from all points of view.

In addition to Tetmosol and Tetmos Cream, Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion has been used in a few cases, but only when the other preparations were not available.

The practice of dealing with sheets, pillow cases, and the personal wearing apparel by the application of a hot iron to their surfaces and seams instead of sending the articles for steam disinfection, has been continued and has confirmed the opinion arrived at in my last Report that this method is quite adequate and efficiently destroys any chance of reinfection from such sources.

Therefore, all persons are advised in a Leaflet prepared by the Department to carry out this form of disinfection in a very careful manner. An extract from the Leaflet 'Scabies, and how to deal with it' is as follows :-

4. All sheets, pillow cases, and personal wearing apparel that have been in contact with the patient that can be boiled, should be boiled very thoroughly. All blankets or other fabrics, clothes, suitings, etc., which would be spoilt by boiling, should be treated by applying a hot iron to the same, especially along any seams in the material, thus killing any insects remaining.

5. Lastly, a thorough cleansing of the premises as a whole should be undertaken so as to remove any possibility of reinfection through some part being overlooked.

I feel that the results obtained are excellent and at this juncture must again express my appreciation of the invaluable co-operation given to the Officers of the Public Health Department by the District Nurses in the various Parishes, since without their co-operation the same success could not possibly have been obtained, and to them the public owe their thanks".

Housing.

There were no new houses erected during the year.

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	152.
No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	559.
No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	2.

...

Examination of Milk Samples.

	Tuberculin Tested.	Accredited.	Pasteurised.	Ordinary.
Taken by County Council	31	190	0	0
Taken by other Local Authorities	1	4	0	0
Taken by own Sanitary Authority	6	33	0	15
Methylene Blue Test:				
No. complying with standard	30	171	0	12
No. not complying with standard	5	41	0	1
Coliform Test:				
No. receiving no test	37	218	0	15
Coliform Bacillus present:				
1 Tube	1	1	0	0
2 Tubes	0	0	0	0
3 Tubes	0	1	0	0
No. satisfying test	0	7	0	0

Food & Drugs Acts.

The following table shows the number of samples taken by the County Council (who are the administrative authority for these Acts) and the results of examination :-

	No.analysed.	Genuine.	Otherwise.
New milk	16	15	1 x
Meat Paste	1	1	0
Coffee	2	2	0
Vinegar	1	1	0
Sausage Meat	1	1	0
Gelatine	2	2	0
Curry powder	2	2	0
Ground Nutmeg	1	1	0
Food colouring	1	1	0
Essence of Ginger	1	1	0
Fruit Squash	1	1	0

x Returned as 'slightly deficient'. Further sample proved genuine.

The average content of the samples of New Milk analysed was as follows:

Fat.	Solids not Fat.	Total Solids.
3.70%	8.84%	12.54%

Water.

There is a sufficient quantity of water supplied throughout the area which is examined frequently and proved to be of good quality chemically and bacteriologically. It is a constant supply and the proportion of dwelling houses supplied is 79% and the proportion of population supplied is 78%. The water is free from plumbo-solvent properties.

Sanitary Inspection.

I have had a complete report from the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Oates, as in former years, but as this is not required I do not think it necessary to amplify any further beyond stating that 5334 visits and inspections were made as compared with 4653 the previous year.

Records.

All records, including statistics supplied by the Registrar General, are being carefully preserved in order that after the termination of the War, a report can be made dealing more fully with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year, so that Annual Records may, as far as practicable, be continuous and complete.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant
R. H. WILSHAW
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Worthing Rural District Council.